

## **Lexington County**

### **1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- Expectations and demand
- Synonymous with success
- Influences positive business moves in community
- Promotes growth / development i.e. stable housing market
- Provides a ready work force
- Education is economic development
- Community commitment
- Ability to continue learning
- Number of scholarships earned
- Help community understand changing needs of workforce
- Standard of living/quality of life – reduced cost of law enforcement
- Proficiency

### **2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- To keep up with a diverse working environment
- Promoting tech prep courses
- Early childhood education
- Quality childcare
- Affordable and accessible healthcare
- Soft skills (character education)
- Expert advice to help guide student with education and career guidance
- Business partners to advise on necessary job skills
- Help with summer gap
- Magnet schools for technology
- Create an educational base that is teachable to open minds
- Excite students about learning
- Specific resources to provide pathways
- Early intervention. Educating parents about resources.
- Businesses to recognize different ways to partner with young employees (early dismissal times, flex time to attend teacher-parent conferences)
- Summer opportunities/ year round schools
- Identify strengths of kids and encourage them to career pathways

#### **Challenges:**

- Emphasis on top 10 percent – funds being cut
- Class size
- Parent accountability
- Parenting programs needs a wider reach in the community
- Clusters of study
- Community support
- Celebrating student success.

#### **Strengths**

- (not listed)

**3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- PTA/SIC
- Programs to work with parents on parenting skills
- Co-op programs
- Job shadowing
- Mentoring
- Good/organized recreational programs
- Programs to prevent drug/alcohol abuse and teen pregnancies
- Use teachers and coaches to mentor students
- Quality healthcare

**4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**

- Read, read, read
- Do community work
- Use school students to mentor
- Encourage children to participate in extra curricular activities
- Defined discipline policies at home
- Manners
- Teach study skills
- Keep underachieving students successful
- Emphasize reading after 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Promote fundamental/basic health care maintenance
- Keep parents in middle/high schools
- Turn off the television, computer and games
- Eat meals together